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Message Text

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53
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 EB-11 NEA-10 AF-10 CU-04 AID-20 SAM-01 SAB-01

INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-08 CIEP-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01

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P R 181710Z MAR 74
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6585

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E.O. 11652: NA
SUBJECT: DIALOGUE WITH JOURNALISTS

1. IN RECENT DAYS I HAVE FOUND FOLLOWING POINTS USEFUL IN TALKS WITH JOURNALISTS AND ACADEMIC AUDIENCES IN BRUSSELS. I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING PAO'S COMMENTDS ON THESE POINTS - WHICH ARE NOT COMPREHENSIVE FOR ALL ISSUES ON CURRENT AGENDA -, TOGETHER WITH SUGGESTIONS OF ADDITIONAL APPROACHES YOU HAVE FOUND OF USE. IN MAKING POINTS BELOW, I HAVE REFERRED WHEN POSSIBLE TO EUROPEAN MDDIA COMMENTARIES ALONG SAME LINES. A FEW OF THESE ARE ALSO NOTED BELOW.

2. ONE OF MORE IMPORTANT POINTS HAS RECEIVED VERY LITTLE NOTICE, VIZ., WHAT "HARDLINERS AMONG THE ARABS" WOULD EXPECT TO GET OUT OF EC/ARAB COOPERATION. (SEE MARCH 16 ECONOMIST, PAGE 12 AND RAYMOND ARON ARTICLE IN MARCH 15 FIGARO.) AT EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SUMMIT IN COPENHAGEN AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BEFORE AND SINCE, ARAB STATES WHICH ARE MOST POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL MADE IT CLEAR THEIR CHIEF PRIORITY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EUROPE IS TO GET EUROPEAN BACKING FOR THEIR VERSION OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE. ARABS ARE NOT SEEKING EXPANSION OF STUDENT EXCHANGES, AND ARABS DO NOT NEED TO DEAL WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY STATES AS THE COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO BOTAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. SINCE EUROPEANS HAVE GREAT STAKE IN MIDDLE EAST STABILITY, THEY MUST ASK THEMSELVES HOW IT MAY BEST BE OBTAINED.THERE IS ALMOST NO SUPPORT AMONG EUROPEAN'S PUBLIC OPINION FOR IMPOSING PEACE AGAINST ISRAEL; THERE IS GENERAL RECOGNIZTION THAT ONLY THE US CAN MEDIATE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS; THERE IS GENERAL APPRECIA-TION FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING DISENGAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH AND HOPE FOR HIM TO SUCCEED ON THE NORTHERN FRONT. IF EUROPEANS FEEL THEY CAN DO SOMETHING TO IMPROVE CHANCES FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT THIS STAGE, PRECISELY WHAT DO THEY SUGGEST? (I HAVE GOTTEN ONLY SHRUGS IN RESPONSE.)

4. EUROPE HAS GREAT INTEREST IN ACQUIRING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM AT REASONABLE PRICES. THE FRENCH SITUATION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEBRUARY 1974 (EXPORTS UP 36 PERCENT OVER FEBRUARY 1973, BUT TRADE BALANCE IN DEFICIT BY 1.5 BILLION FRANCS BECAUSE OF HUGE PRICE INCREASES FOR PETROLEUM) BEARS OUT THE OECD PREDICTIONS. REASON ARGUES FOR A COOPERATIVE EFFORT AMONG CONSUMERS AND CONSUMERS-PRODUCERS, IN THE WIDE BUT STRUCTURED CONTEXT SUGGESTED BY DR. KISSINGER.

5. THE US-EUROPEAN DISPUTE WHICH HAS MADE HEADLINES THIS

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YEAR MIGHT BETTER BE SEEN AS AN INTERNAL EUROPEAN ARGUMENT OVER THE NATURE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. (JOHN LAMBERT, LONDON SUNDAY TIMES, APPEARING ON WEST GERMAN TELEVISION'S "INTERNATIONALER FRUECHSCHOPPEN," MARCH 17.) EVERYONE AGREES THAT THE PROBLEMS FACING INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS ARE REAL AND URGENT. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO DECIDE IF THEY WANT TO SOLVE THEM IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE US OR AT A DISTANCE FROM US.

6. IN POINTING IN HIS CHICAGO APPEARANCE TO CONGRESSIONAL SENTIMENT AGAINST CONTINUING IN A DISPROPRAITE WAY TO UNDERWRITE EUROPEAN SECURITY WHILE EUROPEANS BEGRUDGED THE US POLITICAL-ECONOMIC COOPERATION, THE PRESIDENT WAS SIMPLY STATING FACTS LONG KNOWN IN EUROPE. EUROPEANS MAY NOT LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THESE FACTS; BUT TERMING THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT "AN ULTIMATUM" (ORTF) WONT MAKE THE FACTS GO AWAY.

7. NOTE: FROM ACADEMICS MORE THAN FROM JOURNALISTS I STILL HEAR CHANGES THAT THE US IS PROFITING MIGHTILY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST WAR; I.E., THE DOLLAR IS UP, OIL COMPANY PROFITS ARE ENOURMOUS, THE US IS SITTING PRETTY AND ONCE AGAIN CAN DOMINATE EURPOE. I HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THE DOLLAR APPARENTLY CANNOT BEHAVE ITSELF PROPERLY, SINCE EITHT MONTHS AGO THE DOLLAR RATE WAS "TOO LOW" (TOO COMPETITIVE) FOR EUROPEAN CURRENCIES. WHATEVER THE ALLEGED OIL COMPANIES' DESIGNS MAY HAVE BEEN, I CAN RECALL NO PERIOD IN WHICH THEY WERE UNDER SO MUCH ATTACK AND SO MUCH THREAT OF LEGISLATIVE REGULATIONS, IN SO MANY PLACES, AS THEY ARE TODAY. I KNOW OF ONLY ONE COUNTRY, THE US, WHERE CITIZENS ARE WRITING NASTY LETTERS TO THEIR LESISLATORS WHILE FUMING IN QUEUES TO BUY GASOLINE, HARDLY A "PROFITABLE" RESULT OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. FINALLY, IF EUROPEANS ARE STILL WEAK AND DIS-
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UNIFIED, THIS IS NOT IN THE US INTEREST. LET THEM UNITE. SINCE THEY ARE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES, CAN UNION BE ON ANY OTHER BASIS THAN THE DEMOCRATIC ONE OF MAJORITY RULE? BUT THAT, OF COURSE, IS A SUBJECT FOR EUROPEAN DECISION.HOFFMAN

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